

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-02 INR-10 INT-08

L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20

CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01

SAL-01 OMB-01 INRE-00 ARA-11 EA-11 NEA-10 RSR-01

OIC-04 /225 W

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P R 031745 Z APR 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8632

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRD, UNCTAD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD: POSSIBLE DEBATE ON REVERSE PREFERENCES

REF: EC BRUSSELS 1601

BEGIN SUMMARY: NIGERIA HAS ASKED US DEL TO SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PREFERENCES TO SUPPORT AN ATTACK ON COMMUNITY SYSTEM OF SPECIAL AND REVERSE PREFERENCES. GERMANY HAS ASKED US DEL NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN ATTACK IN UNCTAD ON REVERSE PREFERENCES AND ESPECIALLY NOT TO AGREE TO UNCTAD INVOLVEMENT IN ISSUE. US DEL BELIEVES SILENCE MIGHT BE MISUNDERSTOOD BUT AGREES THAT UNCTAD SHOULD NOT GET INVOLVED. DEBATE BEGINS APRIL 4. ACTION REQUESTED: UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, US DEL PLANS MAKE LOW- KEY STATEMENT AGAINST REVERSE PREFERENCES. IT WILL NOT SUPPORT SPECIFIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INVOLVEMENT OF UNCTAD BEYOND THAT WHICH WAS AGREED IN
RES 77(III). END SUMMARY

1. US DEL TO SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PREFERENCES
INFORMED THAT NIGERIAN DEL (AWOKOYA) PLANS MAKE STATEMENT
ATTACKING EC SYSTEM OF SPECIAL AND REVERSE PREFERENCES.
AWOKOYA SAID HIS AUTHORITIES UNDERSTOOD FROM CONVERSATIONS
IN LAGOS THAT US SUPPORTS TOUGH STAND ON REVERSE PREFERENCES.
HE THEREFORE EXPRESSED HOPE US DEL WOULD SUPPORT HIS
INTERVENTION. US DEL GAVE NO COMMITMENT.

2. GERMAN DEL (KUHN) SAID AT RECENT US- EC CONSULTATIONS
US HAD AGREED NOT CRITICIZE EC ON REVERSE AND SPECIAL
PREFERENCE MATTER IN UNCTAD AND HOPED THAT WE WOULD
MAINTAIN THAT STANCE IN SPECIAL COMMITTEE. KUHN ALSO
REFERRED TO POSITION TAKEN BY US AT SANTIAGO. SAID AT
THAT TIME US CONSIDERED SPECIAL AND REVERSE PREFERENCES
AS MATTER FOR PARTIES CONCERNED AND OPPOSED ANY UNCTAD
INVOLVEMENT. KUHN EXPRESSED HOPE US WOULD NOT RPT NOT
GO BEYOND LANGUAGE IN PARA IC OF RES 77(III) WHICH REFERS
TO SOLUTION OF MATTER BY PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH
ASSISTANCE FROM UNCTAD ONLY IF REQUESTED. KUHN CON-
CERNED BECAUSE NIGERIA HAD INFORMED HIM IT WOULD MAKE
STATEMENT IN PLENARY CALLING FOR PHASING OUT OF SPECIAL
AND REVERSE PREFERENCES AND ASKING UNCTAD SG TO REPORT
ON DEVELOPMENTS AT NEXT SESSION OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

3. NIGERIAN AND GERMAN REQUESTS CREATE TACTICAL DILEMMA
FOR US. IF WE FAIL GIVE SOME FORM OF PUBLIC SUPPORT TO
NIGERIA AND ANY OTHER LIKEMINDED LDCS ON REVERSE
PREFERENCES, PARTICIPANTS MAY QUESTION US RESOLVE ON
THIS ISSUE AND MAY RISK WEAKENING FUTURE LDC SUPPORT.
ON OTHER HAND, WE WOULD NOT WISH TAKE ACTION WHICH MIGHT
JEOPARDIZE MOST RECENT US EFFORTS RESOLVE PREFERENCE
PROBLEMS DIRECTLY WITH COMMUNITY. ALSO, IT IS USUALLY
TO OUR ADVANTAGE TO MINIMIZE DIVISIONS WITHIN GROUP B IN
DEALING WITH PROBLEMS IN UNCTAD.

4. WHILE NOT SUPPORTING NIGERIANS ON SEEKING UNCTAD
INVOLVEMENT, US DEL BELIEVES STATEMENT SHOULD BE MADE
REITERATING US POLICY PARTICULARLY ON REVERSE PREFERENCES
LEST OUR SILENCE BE MISUNDERSTOOD. UNLESS OTHERWISE
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INSTRUCTED, US DEL PLANS MAKE LOW- KEY STATEMENT SUPPORTING

NIGERIAN INTERVENTION INsofar AS IT RELATES TO
REVERSE PREFERENCES. WE WOULD STATE THAT US OPPOSITION
TO WORLD TRADING SYSTEM BASED ON PREFERENTIAL ARRANGEMENTS
IS WELL KNOWN. SUCH ARRANGEMENTS ARE CONTRARY TO THE
OPEN TRADING SYSTEM WE ALL SEEK. REVERSE PREFERENCES
CAUSE US PARTICULAR PROBLEMS BECAUSE THEY DISCRIMINATE
AGAINST US TRADING INTERESTS AND PREVENT DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES FROM MOST EFFICIENT ALLOCATION OF THEIR
RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT. RIMESTAD

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